

say that on Oct. 12, 1894, a beautiful adult male accepted an invitation from my gun to join some of his cousins in my collection. The bird was shot in an old stubble field bordering the Iowa River, opposite Regens Park, Iowa City, Iowa, and is entered as number 796 in my catalogue. — PAUL BARTSCH, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) at Toronto, Ontario. — On the 22d of September, 1894, whilst I was Snipe shooting near Toronto, I noticed several small Sparrows, flitting out of the rushes before my dogs, whose manner of flight was new to me. Two of these I shot and found them to be of this species, — the first I had ever seen or heard of in the Province. During the remainder of that autumn I kept a sharp lookout for them but saw no more.

On the 10th of June, 1895, I saw a small bird flying up the shore of Lake Ontario from east to west; it was then about thirty yards high, but as it neared the marsh at the eastern end of Ashbridge's Bay, it gradually lowered as if intending to alight. However, I killed it. This was a female with ova about as large as No. 12 shot; in the autumn of that year I saw only two others though I watched for them carefully.

In 1896 I saw only one and that was on the 28th of October. This bird was in a marsh about three miles from where I have seen all the others.

During the autumn of 1897 none appeared until the 9th of October; from that date until the 29th one or more were seen every day but they never became common.

In the autumn of 1898 the first appeared on the 23d of September, when I saw one; on the 24th several were seen, and from that time until the first of October they were quite common; on some days I must have seen fifty or sixty of them.

They frequent just one spot in the marsh and are, owing to their secretive habits, rather difficult to find; when driven out of one clump of rushes they fly a few yards and drop into another, which affords them perfect concealment. I have not yet heard one of them utter a call note or a chirp of any kind.

Since I first saw them I have looked for them continually through the spring and summer months, but with the exception of the female taken on the 10th of June, 1895, I have failed to find any. — C. W. NASH, *Toronto, Canada.*

Capture of the Black Seaside Finch (*Ammodramus nigrescens*) in 1889. — Mr. Chapman's note on this species (*Auk*, XV, 1898, p. 270) states that it had not apparently been met with since its discovery in 1872, by Mr. Maynard, till found by himself in 1898. It hence gives me pleasure to report my capture of a pair near Indianola, Florida, March 3 and 5, 1889. Indianola is situated almost opposite Cocoa, on Merritt Island. While

hunting Wilson's Snipe, along the border of a stretch of stiff marsh grass on the swampy shore of Banana River, a small bird started up in front of me and, fluttering over the top of the grass, had the appearance of a Wren, but its black plumage gave me full assurance that *Ammodramus nigrescens* was within reach of my gun. Changing cartridges, I soon had the pleasure of holding in my hand this highly valued prize. Snipe shooting was now out of order, but several hours' search for the Finches proved fruitless. On March 5, I had the good fortune to collect another Black Seaside Finch, apparently the mate to the one taken two days before.

Several additional visits to the same and other near localities did not reveal the presence of any more of these birds. Some days after taking the specimens already mentioned we made a trip to the shore of the Banana River, about eleven miles north of Indianola, a native of Merritt Island having assured us that we would find this little black Sparrow there in quantity; but our bright anticipations were doomed to disappointment.

Several years later, when again on the island, I had the pleasure of starting another specimen, a few miles east of Indianola, midway between Indian and Banana Rivers. While in the act of raising my gun my feet were suddenly entangled with a large moccasin, and a glance at this loathsome object seemed sufficient reason for letting my coveted Sparrow escape.

The two I took in 1889 were a pair, male and female, and have afforded me especial pleasure when looking over my collection of birds. The male is darker throughout than the female, with the markings on the under parts stronger and more conspicuous.—AUGUST KOCH, *Williamsport, Pa.*

Song Season of the Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).—The following is a record of the days on which I have heard the Cardinal sing, since January, 1896. I think it is a full one, as there has hardly been a week that I have not been in the haunts of the bird, and the song also is one that is not likely to be overlooked.

The record was taken in the vicinity of Anderson, S. C. [See Table, pp. 279 and 280.]—J. ROWLAND NOWELL, *Anderson, S. C.*

Piranga rubra not Preoccupied.—Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., has kindly pointed out an error of statement in regard to the names of Tanagers published by the present writer in the last number of 'The Auk.' The remark is there made that Vieillot used the combination *Piranga rubra* for the Scarlet Tanager, thus precluding its subsequent employment for the Summer Tanager. As a matter of fact, however, Vieillot's *Piranga rubra* (Ois. Am. Sept., I, 1807, p. iv, pl. I, fig. 12) is not the Scarlet, but the Summer Tanager, as examination of his references and figure